

REMARKS

CURRENT STATUS

An RCE and Submission was filed on August 1, 2005. This Supplemental Response supplements that Submission.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended herein to recite that the copolymer made by the pearl polymerization method is in the form of beads". In other words, Claim 1 has been amended herein to emphasize that the copolymer which is produced by the pearl polymerization process is in the form of "beads". Support for this amendment can be found in the Application on pages 52-53 wherein the Application teaches the pearl polymerization method and that the products of the pearl polymerization process is a bead. Specifically, the Examiner's attention is directed to page 53, lines 7, 11, 12, and 16 which refer to the physical form of the copolymer from the pearl polymerization process as being in the form of beads.

DECLARATION OF MR. NAKAJIMA

The Examiner had taken the position that Sampei teaches copolymers that fall within Claim 1 of the present Invention. Applicants submit that Sampei does not teach using beads of a copolymer to form the polymer layer. Additionally, attached hereto is the Declaration of Mr. Nakajima which demonstrates that the copolymers taught by Sampei do not form beads when employing a pearl polymerization process and which teaches that using another process, namely the solution polymerization process, the beads are not formed.

Turning to the attached Declaration of Mr. Nakajima, the Examiner will note that twenty different tests were run. The first set of tests uses the copolymerization materials of FS-1 to FS-10 as recited in Table 1 at Column 19 of Sampei. Each one of these monomer mixtures was used in a pearl polymerization process. As brought out in Paragraph 5 of Mr. Nakajima's Declaration, beads of the copolymer were unable to be formed from each of these 10 compositions. In fact, no copolymer was able to be recovered from the process. This specifically teaches that

Sampei's copolymers cannot be made using pearl polymerization.

Mr. Nakajima then went on to use a conventional solution polymerization process for the monomer mixtures FS-1 to FS-10. This process is outlined in Paragraph 7 of Mr. Nakajima's Declaration. As recited in Paragraph 8 of Mr. Nakajima's Declaration, this solution process did not form beads and the material from the solution process required further purification in order to remove unreacted monomer. Thus, Mr. Nakajima's Declaration demonstrates that the material of Sampei cannot be used in a pearl polymerization process and that it doesn't form beads. Applicants have specifically amended Claim 1 to recite that the pearl polymerization process forms beads. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have clearly distinguished their Invention over that of Sampei and, as such, Applicants' Invention is patentable over Sampei.

Arimoto had also been cited in combination with Sampei to teach the use of tin oxide. However, the combination of Sampei and Arimoto does not teach the invention as recited in Claim 1 and, thus, it is respectfully submitted that

Claim 1, as presented herein, is patentable over Sampei taken alone or in combination with Arimoto. Since Claims 2-4 and 6-8 and 10 all depend upon Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are also patentable over Sampei and Arimoto taken alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and the enclosed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl: Executed Declaration of Mr. Nakajima
Return receipt post-card